



## Conservation: AmeriCorps Advanced Forests Crew Member

**Location:** Richmond, Vermont

**Dates:** June 1 – October 30, 2026

**Weekly compensation:** \$635

**AmeriCorps Education Award:** \$3,697.50

**Age requirement:** 18+

### Who We Are

VYCC's Conservation Program engages young people in hands-on projects that benefit Vermont's environment and communities. Dedicated Crew Members are essential to the success of the program, and their efforts have a significant impact on habitat, water quality, and outdoor recreation in Vermont.

With a 40-year history in the state, VYCC crews have completed thousands of conservation projects. Corps Members work and learn together in a collaborative crew environment where they gain skills, build community and have a positive impact on the land. Projects include trail building, infrastructure improvement at State Parks, sustainable forestry, invasive plant management, and more. In every case, Corps Members receive paid training and support from VYCC staff. The experience is immersive and physically demanding. With that challenge also comes tremendous personal reward. For young people passionate about the outdoors, joining VYCC is a great opportunity to steward the environment while also developing valuable leadership skills.

These projects are made possible through VYCC's partnership with The Corps Network. This is an AmeriCorps position funded through an Opportunity Youth Service Initiative (OYSI) grant.

### Who We're Looking For

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A successful Conservation Crew Member is someone who rises to new challenges with a positive attitude and will work toward professional development. We look for hard-working individuals who will demonstrate their passion for environmental stewardship and public service through a commitment to VYCC's mission. Strong candidates will bring excitement for outdoor living and learning new skills.

### **What You Can Expect**

Advanced Forests Crews complete forestry projects, including (but not limited to) crop tree release, early successional habitat, hazardous tree removal, and invasive species control. Crew Members work under the guidance of their Crew Leader(s). Each crew has 1-2 Crew Leaders who are responsible for delegating tasks, supporting Crew Member growth and success, and upholding VYCC's policies.

The week begins at VYCC Campus in Richmond, VT. Members arrive early on Monday morning to prepare for the week ahead with their crew. All crews depart from campus by 7:30AM and drive to their project site. Members are required to camp in the field with their crew throughout the week. Crews come back to headquarters every Friday to unpack, clean gear, and have the weekends off. Members have additional responsibilities at the campsite outside of these hours. Occasionally, Crew Members will have responsibilities on weekends, including training, preparing for and returning from time off, and the end-of-season closure.

Members serve approximately 40 hours/week between training and project work. Training and project work both count toward the AmeriCorps term of service. Additionally, Members spend 10-15 hours/week on community activities and camp tasks. Every day will include a half-hour lunch break. Community activities and lunch break are not counted toward AmeriCorps service. Training, project work, and communal camp tasks all contribute toward AmeriCorps service.

Advanced Crew Members gain specialized skills and have the opportunity to network with conservation professionals who work for the state and federal government.

### **What We'll Expect from You**

#### *Project Accomplishments*

- Complete meaningful conservation projects including, but not limited to, trail and road maintenance, water quality, and forest projects
- Perform service safely in all weather conditions, including bringing all safety

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- gear to the project site and using tools and equipment properly
- Follow instructions from VYCC staff and project partners to learn technical skills and complete projects
- Complete projects to the best of your abilities, maintaining efficiency and a high standard of quality

#### *Crew Community Building*

- Follow all principles, practices and policies of VYCC and AmeriCorps, including a drug-free project site and campsite
- Complete daily crew chores and tasks, both at the project site and the campsite
- Help create a supportive and inclusive crew community by participating in crew activities and supporting fellow crew members
- Set professional and personal goals and engage with supervisor to assess progress and receive feedback throughout the season
- Be willing to be flexible and adaptable as schedules and projects have potential to shift throughout the season

#### *Education and Training*

- Participate in a variety of trainings, including VYCC and AmeriCorps Orientations and additional enrichment activities. These training hours will not exceed 20% of the total number of member hours
- Participate in learning and growth opportunities throughout service

#### **Required Qualifications**

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to perform strenuous physical work safely in all weather conditions
- Ability to hike in steep or uneven terrain, lift and carry heavy tools, gear or materials
- Eagerness for extensive camping with limited accommodations and support
- Be a U.S. citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident non-citizen of the U.S.
- Have not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and be willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check and a VT Agency of Human Services check.
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement
- Valid driver's license with good driving record for at least three years (preferred)

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### Preferred Qualifications

- Owning a personal vehicle is preferable. VYCC Campus is in a rural community with little to no public transit.
- Experience operating a chainsaw to safely and efficiently fell, limb, buck, and brush
- Basic knowledge of Northeastern tree and plant identification
- Experience utilizing pesticides for invasive species control

### Compensation & Benefits

- AmeriCorps Living Allowance paid bi-weekly: \$635
- Education Award on completion of service: \$3,697.50
- Chainsaw Safety certification
- Potential eligibility for student loan forbearance and interest payment
- Food is provided when you are with your crew
- Camping accommodations (campsite, tent) are provided while working with your crew, there are limited accommodations for non-program time (weekends)
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development
- Career pathways support through VYCC's Community Engagement Manager and program staff

### Terms of Service and Dates of Service:

900 Hour (Minimum-time) term from June 1 - October 30, 2026

Name:	Date:
Signature:	

### Equal Opportunity at VYCC

If you're excited about this role, but your experience doesn't align perfectly with everything in this job description, we encourage you to apply anyway. You may be just the right candidate for this role or another one of our openings!

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